

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear fellow Rotarians,

Final preparations for the 2005 RI Convention in Chicago next month are already well underway. Those of you who have been to RI conventions in the past will understand when I say that there is no experience like it. For those of you who have yet to make your first convention journey, there will never be a better time than this summer.



The RI centennial convention will be the greatest celebration in Rotary's history. We already anticipate the largest attendance of any North American RI convention, and have planned several events new even for seasoned convention goers – including a centennial parade through downtown Chicago.

Of course, there will also be the inspiring presentations, exciting outings, and unmatched opportunities for fellowship you will always find at an RI convention. This annual meeting is always the best way to meet Rotarians from around the world, and many lasting friendships and club partnerships have had their beginnings at these wonderful events.

As a father of four and grandfather of eight who plans on bringing the entire family to the convention, I encourage you to consider making the trip a family affair. I look forward to bringing my grandchildren to the Field Museum, which Rotary has reserved for an entire evening. It is an amazing museum with collections showcasing the diversity of cultures and civilizations across time and distance. What better way is there to visit such a place than with Rotarians from all parts of the world?

Rotary crosses geographic and cultural barriers like no other organization, and the convention is a living demonstration of how international Rotary really is. As Host Organization Committee Chair Richard Galitz notes, "A Rotarian doesn't understand the true meaning of the 'International' on their Rotary pin until they attend an RI convention."

Since becoming president of Rotary International, I have been privileged to be a part of Rotarian gatherings in many parts of the Rotary world. No matter how many I attend, I am excited about each and every one – because every one is a unique window into a new community of Rotarians. At every Foundation dinner, Presidential Celebration, and club meeting, I have been welcomed into the lives of Rotarians and their families, learning about countries and cultures in a way no tourist ever could.

Your Rotary pin is a passport to a kind of travel that most people will never know – one that values people over places, homes over skylines. Through Rotary, you can voyage around the world just by visiting one convention – through the House of Friendship, the booths and exhibits, and simply the opportunity to chat with Rotarians from dozens of countries you might never have thought to visit. At the convention, they will come to you. There won't be another Rotary Centennial for another hundred years, and we are privileged to be a part of Rotary in this landmark year. I look forward to seeing each of you as we Celebrate Rotary with service, fellowship, and good friends in Chicago this June.

Glenn E. Estess Sr.
President, Rotary International



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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INVOCATION

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| May 31 | Shane James | June 7 | Cheryl Johnson |
| June 14 | Alex Kempenaar | June 21 | Diane Kirkland |



BINGO SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | 6:15-8:15 | 8:00-10:00 |
| June 16 | Tim Lowes | Sharon Kyle |
| July 14 | Brian Bekar | |

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or email mrrotary@telus.net

A Bingo Volunteer list for the next Rotary year (starting July 2005) will be circulated during this meeting. There still are 9 empty slots, so with 40+ members it should be no problem to fill all the open spaces. It only takes 2 hours from your valuable time in one year.

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Carmen Zajac - Zajac Ranch
Who's Who – Anil Bharwani

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: RYLA

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

| Date | Time | Event | Venue |
|------------|---------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| June 8 | 6:00 pm | Ladies Night | Swan-E-Set |
| June 18-22 | | RI Centennial Convention | Chicago |
| June 28 | | Installation of new Executive | Meadow Gardens Golf Course |
| Sept. 17 | 7-10pm | Harvest Wine Festival | ACT |

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$27+ 1/2 of today's sales, 50 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June 6: Zulekha Bharwani

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

June 1: Eng Hock & Catherine Tan
June 2: Anil & Zulekha Bharwani
June 4: Brian & Sharon Bekar

I needed something to fill the page. So here is a joke; I could have been the old lady!

SERMON ON THE MOUND

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon. Four worms were placed into four separate jars. The first worm was put into a jar of alcohol. The second worm was put into a jar of cigarette smoke. The third worm was put into a jar of chocolate syrup. The fourth worm was put into a jar of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the Sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol - Dead.

The second worm in cigarette smoke - Dead.

Third worm in chocolate syrup - Dead.

Fourth worm in good clean soil - Alive.

So the Minister asked the congregation, "What can you learn from this demonstration?"

A little old woman in the back quickly raised her hand and said,

"As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"

ROTARY HONOURS CDC, USAID CHIEFS FOR LEADING ROLES IN POLIO EFFORT

Rotary International has honoured Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Andrew Natsios, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), with the Polio Eradication Champion Award for leading the two government agencies in their support of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

PolioPlus



Rotary International

They were recognized by RI President Glenn Estess Sr. at a reception honouring U.S. champions of polio eradication in Washington, D.C., on 11 May.

"In America, three generations have passed since any mother feared polio for her child. Polio didn't disappear here all by itself — it was conquered by dedication, generosity, and hard work," said Estess. "And now, America and Rotary International are continuing that fight, so that every single child, everywhere in the world, will be safe from this terrible disease."

Under Gerberding's leadership, the CDC, a spearheading partner with Rotary in the initiative, has provided crucial technical and financial support. Gerberding's recent travels to the polio strongholds of India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan have encouraged her counterparts in those countries to intensify their efforts against polio. The CDC deploys expert staff to polio-endemic countries and operates the world's leading specialized polio reference lab. Last year, the organization funded vaccinations in high-risk countries.

Fellow award recipient Natsios was recognized for his commitment to eradicating polio. Under his leadership, USAID provided crucial support for the synchronized polio immunization campaigns launched in 2004 in 23 West and Central African countries, including critical work to reach children in the previously inaccessible areas of Darfur, Sudan, and northern Nigeria.

In Southeast Asia in 2004, USAID grants supported immunization activities that affected more than 200 million children. Worldwide, USAID is contributing \$32 million to aid in the development and maintenance of polio eradication infrastructure and fund immunizations, surveillance, and social mobilization activities. As the largest donor to this global endeavour, the U.S. government has contributed more than \$1 billion to polio eradication since 1995.

"U.S. leadership is crucial to ensure that the threshold of victory over polio is crossed," Estess said. The Polio Eradication Champion Award was established in 1995 to recognize world leaders who have made outstanding contributions toward the goal of eradicating polio.

Past recipients include former U.S. President Bill Clinton; former prime ministers John Major, of the United Kingdom, and Ryutaro Hashimoto, of Japan; presidents Chen Shui-Bian, of Taiwan, Pervez Musharraf, of Pakistan, Olusegun Obasanjo, of Nigeria, Mamadou Tandja, of Niger, and Jose Eduardo dos Santos, of Angola; Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands; UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan; German Economic Cooperation and Development Minister Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul; Dutch Development Cooperation Minister Eveline Herfkens; and Egyptian First Lady Suzanne Mubarak.